

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/566,987
Amendment filed December 12, 2008
Reply to OA dated September 12, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are currently pending in this patent application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 12, 2008.

The following rejections are set forth in the outstanding Action:

(1) claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (Japanese Publ. No. 05-083625) in view of Yokonuma (PCT No. WO 03/101092);

(2) claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (Japanese Publ. No. 05-083625) in view of Yokonuma (PCT No. WO 03/101092), and further in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,944,345);

(3) claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (Japanese Publ. No. 05-083625) in view of Yokonuma (PCT No. WO 03/101092), and further in view of Dow (U.S. Publ. No. 2004/0090533); and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/566,987
Amendment filed December 12, 2008
Reply to OA dated September 12, 2008

(4) claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (Japanese Publ. No. 05-083625) in view of Yokonuma (PCT No. WO 03/101092 A1), and further in view of Hayashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,944,345) and Dow (U.S. Publ. No. 2004/0090533).

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

At the outset, the applicant thanks the Examiner for now indicating that claims 2, 5 and 8 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended in the manner suggested in item 14, page 7 of the outstanding Action. It is respectfully pointed out that the amended claims filed herewith contain subject matter said to be allowable; thereby, making the outstanding rejections moot.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the cited references, singly or in combination, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

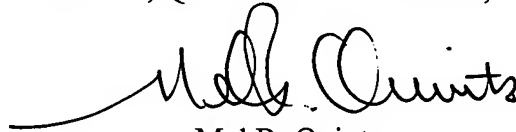
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/566,987
Amendment filed December 12, 2008
Reply to OA dated September 12, 2008

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj/ipc

Atty. Docket No. **060103**
Suite 400
1420 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE